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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JOHN R. SCHNEIDER et al.

Serial No.: 10/007,149

Filed: December 5, 2001

For: COATING COMPOSITIONS PROVIDING IMPROVED MAR AND SCRATCH RESISTANCE AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

: PATENT APPLICATION

: Confirmation No. 1918

: Attorney Docket No.: 1646A1

: Group Art Unit: 1711

: Examiner: Rachel Gorr

REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply Brief is being submitted in response to the Examiner's Answer of September 19, 2006.

ARGUMENT

1. The rejection of claims 1, 6, 10-12, 15-17, 19-24, 26-40, 42-45, and 50-58 under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as obvious over Christie (U. S. 6,203,906)

As noted in the Appeal Brief, Christie teaches shaped products and coating films formed from abrasion resistant polymer formulations. Christie does not teach or suggest a powder composition of the type presently claimed, wherein the difference between the refractive index of the resin and the refractive index of the particles is less than one. Moreover, the reference

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On	November 17, 2006
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offers no guidance on the selection of resins or particles suitable for use in a powder coating composition, with or without soft fillers such as aluminum hydroxide, such that the difference in the respective indices of refraction is less than 1. In contrast, in the composition of the present invention, the resin and particles are carefully selected such that the difference in the respective indices of refraction is minimal, i. e., less than 1, in order to minimize haziness of the applied coating. Christie does not teach minimizing haze (maximizing clarity) of a coating composition while also improving the mar resistance thereof. In addition, it remains Appellants' position that Christie does not teach the particular particle compositions, sizes or ranges as recited in the dependent claims.

2. The rejection of claims 41 and 59-63 under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as obvious over Christie (U. S. 6,203,906) in view of Harashima (U. S. 6,362,267).

Christie fails to teach or suggest the powder coating compositions of the present invention for all the reasons discussed in the Appeal Brief, and is further deficient, as noted by the Examiner, by not specifying that alumina can be extruded with all of the ingredients of the coating composition. Harashima is drawn to a powder coating composition used to coat a molded product having wrinkles, cavities, and the like in its surface. The Harashima reference does nothing to overcome the deficiencies of Christie in teaching or suggesting the present invention. Neither reference, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a powder coating composition as recited in the present claims.

Based on the above and on arguments presented in the earlier submitted Appeal Brief, Appellants respectfully request that the Board reverse the Examiner on the rejection of claims 1, 6, 10-12, 15-17, 19-24, 26-40, 42-45, and 50-58 under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as obvious over Christie (U. S. 6,203,906) and remand the case to the Examiner for a Notice of Allowance.

Appellants also respectfully request that the Board reverse the Examiner on the rejection of claims 41 and 59-63 under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as obvious over Christie (U. S. 6,203,906) in view of Harashima (U. S. 6,362,267) and remand the case to the Examiner for a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 17, 2006